

Archaeological Survey Information Bulletin: Statements of Justification

In conjunction with development of Historic Resources Management Branch's Online Permitting and Clearance (OPaC) system, requirements for preparation and submission archaeological Historic Resources Overviews (HRO) have been eliminated. Information supporting recommendations for management of archaeological and structural resources submitted through OPaC must instead be included in a "Statement of Justification for *Historical Resources Act* Clearance" or a "Statement of Justification for Archaeological Historic Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA)." Outside OPaC, similar support documentation ("Statement of Justification for *Historical Resources Act* Requirements") is required when a proponent requests a statement of requirements for a project other than small-scale oil and gas.

A "Statement of Justification for *Historical Resources Act* Clearance" is used to obtain clearance through OPaC when evaluation of a small-scale oil and gas project or elements thereof suggests that requirements for further study are not warranted. When a previously issued requirement does not exist, and evaluation of a project suggests that an *HRIA* should proceed, a "Statement of Justification for Archaeological Historic Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA)" should be uploaded with an OPaC Archaeological Permit application. Even with an attached "Statement of Justification for Archaeological Historic Resources Impact Assessment," application approval cannot be guaranteed. Consequently, applicants may wish to consult Branch staff prior to submission. (Note: application fees are non-refundable regardless of the outcome of review.)

The format of the Statements of Justification has been streamlined to reduce the amount of required supporting data, such as master lists and site forms. In addition, we have eliminated the need to repeat information already included in online applications for archaeological permits or *Historical Resources Act* (HRA) clearance (e.g., developer and proponent name or listed lands affected). However, this information still will have to be provided in "Statements of Justification for *Historical Resources Act* Requirements" for projects currently not part of OPaC (e.g., subdivision or transportation projects).

Detailed and accurate information about the relationship between project impacts and historic resources (both known and potential) must be provided. The size of the required document is expected to vary with the size and complexity of the project evaluated.

Instruction guides and Word templates for Statements of Justification for upload to OPaC applications are available on our website. Similar documents are provided for submissions outside OPaC to obtain a statement of requirements or clearance for projects other than small-scale oil and gas.

If you have any questions regarding Statements of Justification for clearance, contact John Brandon, Land Use Planning section (john.brandon@gov.ab.ca, tel. 780-431-2301). If you have questions regarding Statements of Justification for HRIAs contact Martina Purdon, Archaeological Survey (martina.purdon@gov.ab.ca, tel. 780-431-2331).